

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-04 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01

INR-05 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 OES-02 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4146

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EALR, FR

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SUBJECT: BRIEFING BY FRENCH OFFICIAL ON DISCUSSION OF

ENERGY AT EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING ON NOVEMBER 11

SUMMARY: BY AGREEMENT WITH EC PARTNERS, GOF HAS BRIEFED US ON SAUVAGNARGUES' PROPOSAL ON ENERGY MADE AT EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING. PROPOSAL IS IN TWO CHAPTERS. FIRST CHAPTER PROVIDES FOR MEASURES TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL. SECOND CHAPTER DEALS WITH COOPERATION BETWEEN EC AND OTHER COUNTRIES: IT DESCRIBES ESTABLISHMENT OF IEA IN FAVORABLE TERMS AND PROPOSES THAT COMMISSION PARTICIPATE IN IEA AS AN OBSERVER. PROPOSAL WAS PUT FORWARD BY SAUVAGNARGUES SPEAKING AS EC PRESIDENT AND WAS DESCRIBED BY GOF AS COMPROMISE, INVOLVING SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS BY FRANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. CABOUAT, DEPUTY FOR ENERGY AFFAIRS TOBRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, CALLED IN ECON/COM MIN LATE ON NOVEMBER 12 ON INSTRUCTION OF FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES TO BRIEF HIM ON DISCUSSION OF ENERGY COOPERATION AT EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETING IN BRUSSELS NOVEMBER 11. CABOUAT SAID THAT SAUVAGNARGUES, ACTING IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, HAD UNDERTAKEN IN AGREEMENT WITH HIS EC PARTNERS TO BRIEF THE U.S. ON THIS DISCUSSION IN THE CONTEXT OF US/EC CONSULTATION.

2. CABOUAT SAID THAT SAUVAGNARGUES, SPEAKING AS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL RATHER THAN AS FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER, HAD MADE A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ON EC ENERGY POLICY WHICH TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS (FRENCH, COMMISSION, AND OTHERS) WHICH HAD BEEN MADE PREVIOUSLY. THE PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL WAS TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR AGREEMENT ON EC ENERGY POLICY AT THE EUROPEAN SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN PARIS IN DECEMBER.

3. SAUVAGNARGUES' PROPOSAL WAS IN TWO CHAPTERS. THE FIRST CHAPTER DEALT WITH EC ENERGY POLICY. IT PROVIDED FOR MEASURES TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL THROUGH A CONCERTED PROGRAM FOR RESTRICTING CONSUMPTION AND A COMMUNITY-WIDE PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPING OTHER SOURCES OF ENERGY. IT PROPOSED THAT A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING ON ENERGY BE HELD IN DECEMBER BEFORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SUMMIT WITH THE TASK OF (A) ADOPTING A PLAN FOR REDUCING ENERGY CONSUMPTION, (B) WORKING OUT A COMMUNITY-WIDE PLAN FOR DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY, AND (C) COORDINATING A COMMUNITY-WIDE EFFORT ON R&D ON NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY. NONE OF THESE PROPOSALS, CABOUAT SAID, WAS PARTICULARLY NEW OR REVOLUTIONARY.

4. THE SECOND CHAPTER DEALT WITH COOPERATION BETWEEN THE

COMMUNITY AND OTHER COUNTRIES. IT PROPOSED THAT THE NINE RECOGNIZE THE NECESSITY OF ENERGY COOPERATION WITH OTHER INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES AND THAT IT DECLARE THAT THE WORK OF THE OECD IN THIS DOMAIN SHOULD BE ACCELERATED AND THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IEA COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THIS OBJECTIVE. IT PROPOSED FURTHER THAT, TO FACILITATE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE IEA AND THE EC, THE COMMISSION PARTICIPATE IN THE IEA AS AN OBSERVER. (CABOUAT COMMENTED PARENTHETICALLY THAT SO LONG AS FRANCE WAS NOT IN THE IEA, THE COMMISSION COULD OBVIOUSLY NOT PARTICIPATE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMUNITY. HENCE, THE NECESSITY FOR LIMITING IT TO OBSERVER STATUS.) IT PROPOSED THAT THE EC DECLARE THAT PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMISSION AS OBSERVER WOULD PERMIT IT TO ENSURE THAT THE WORK OF THE IEA WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE EC.

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5. CHAPTER TWO FURTHER PROPOSED THAT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE NINE TAKE NOTE WITH SATISFACTION OF THE (FRENCH) PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE OF CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS TO BE HELD IN EARLY 1975 AND THAT THEY DECLARE THAT THE EC INTENDED TO PARTICIPATE AS A SINGLE ENTITY IN THIS CONFERENCE AND TO SPEAK AT IT WITH ONE VOICE.

6. CABOUAT THEN BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED REACTION OF FRANCE'S EC PARTNERS TO THIS PROPOSAL. HE SAID THE GENERAL REACTION HAD BEEN RATHER FAVORABLE. THE GERMANS, THE BELGIANS AND THE DUTCH HAD BEEN THE MOST FAVORABLE. THE UK HAD ASKED IF SAUVAGNARGUES HAD CONSULTED THE U.S. ON THIS COMPROMISE PROPOSAL. SAUVAGNARGUES HAD REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT IT PREFERABLE TO DISCUSS IT IN THE EC FIRST. CABOUAT ADDED THAT THE UK REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL ON THE PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE WAS SOMEWHAT RESERVED. HE SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH OVERALL REACTION HAD BEEN RATHER FAVORABLE, THERE HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN NO AGREEMENT ON THE PROPOSAL AT THE NOVEMBER 11 MEETING. THERE WOULD BE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF IT AT THE PERMREP LEVEL, THEN DISCUSSION AT A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN ABOUT TEN DAYS. IF THE COUNCIL FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT, THEN THE MATTER WOULD BE REFERRED TO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

6. COMMENTING ON SAUVAGNARGUES' PROPOSAL, CABOUAT SAID THAT IT REPRESENTED RATHER SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS BY FRANCE. IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT LEFT THE MODALITIES OF COOPERATION TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION AND DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY DELIBERATELY

VAGUE. THE INITIAL FRENCH PROPOSALS ON THIS HAD CALLED FOR THE SETTING OF PRECISE TARGETS AND DATES. SECONDLY, THE LANGUAGE ON THE IEA WAS POSITIVE. IT NOT ONLY ACQUIESCED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IEA BUT DESCRIBED THIS AS A FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT. THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMMISSION AS AN OBSERVER WAS ALSO DESCRIBED BY CABOUAT AS A CONCESSION BY FRANCE.

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**TAGS:** ENRG, EALR, FR  
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